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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A monopolar diathermic cutter comprising:

a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion, the tip end portion having electrically insulating properties;

an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end projecting from the tip end portion of the main body member, the elongated member being movably inserted in the main body member;

an electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member such that the electrode faces the tip end portion of the main body member, extending in a direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member, and including a base-end surface disposed opposite to the tip end portion of the main body member; and

an electrically insulating member with which the electrode is coated in such a manner that at least a part of the base-end surface of the electrode is exposed,

wherein:

the elongated member has electrically conductive properties,

the electrode is electrically connected to the elongated member to form a single electrode member, ~~and~~

~~the diathermic cutter is of a monopolar type.~~

60. (Previously Presented) The diathermic cutter according to claim 59, wherein the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated

member, and the proximal end of the electrode is located inward of a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

61. (Previously Presented) The diathermic cutter according to claim 59, wherein the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the electrode is at least partially exposed at a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

62. (Previously Presented) The diathermic cutter according to claim 59, wherein the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the electrode at least partially projects further outwards than a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

63. (Previously Presented) The diathermic cutter according to claim 59, wherein the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member radially extends toward a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

64. (Previously Presented) The diathermic cutter according to claim 63, wherein the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a distal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the distal end of the electrode is located inward of the side surface of the electrically insulating member.

65. (Currently Amended) A bipolar diathermic cutter comprising:
a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion;
an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end projecting from the
tip end portion of the main body member, the elongated member being movably inserted in
the main body member;

[[an]] a first electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member,
extending in a direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member, and
including a base-end surface disposed opposite to the tip end portion of the main body
member; and

an electrically insulating member with which the first electrode is coated in
such a manner that at least a part of the base-end surface of the first electrode is exposed,

wherein the elongated member includes:

a ~~first cylindrical member~~ connected to the first electrode, the member having
~~electrical conductive properties and~~ a second electrode including a tip end which is ~~located~~
spaced apart from the base-end surface of the first electrode[[;]] and ~~a second cylindrical~~
~~member~~ an insulating portion located between inward of the ~~first cylindrical member, and a~~
tip end of the second electrode and ~~which has electrically insulating properties and which is~~
~~disposed on the base-end surface of the first electrode to electrically isolate the first and~~
second electrodes, and

~~wherein the diathermic cutter is of a bipolar type using the electrode and the~~
~~first cylindrical member having the electrically conductive properties.~~

66. (Currently Amended) The diathermic cutter according to claim 65, further comprising:

a first conductive wire inserted in the main body member, and electrically connected to the first electrode; and

a second conductive wire inserted in the main body member, and electrically connected to the second electrode ~~first cylindrical member~~.

67. (Currently Amended) The diathermic cutter according to claim 65, wherein the first electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the first electrode is located inward of a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

68. (Currently Amended) The diathermic cutter according to claim 65, wherein the first electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the first electrode is at least partially exposed at a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

69. (Currently Amended) The diathermic cutter according to claim 65, wherein the first electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the first electrode at least partially projects further outwards than a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

70. (Currently Amended) The diathermic cutter according to claim 65, wherein the first electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member radially extends towards a side surface of the electrically insulating member main bar.

71. (Currently Amended) The diathermic cutter according to claim 70, wherein the first electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a distal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the distal end of the first electrode is located inward of the side surface of the electrically insulating member.